

VZCZCXRO8739
PP RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHLN RUEHMA RUEHPB
DE RUEHHI #0561 0691116
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 101116Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY HANOI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1084
INFO RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY PRIORITY 0695
RUEHZN/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 2895
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 5468
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY 0846
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU PRIORITY 0641
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU PRIORITY 0209
RUEHRO/USMISSION UN ROME PRIORITY
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI PRIORITY 1338
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA PRIORITY
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHRC/USDA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP/ISA/AP// PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC//J2/J3/J5//
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-3//
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI//J00/J2/J3/J5//
RHEFAFM/DIRAFMIC FT DETRICK MD//MA-1A//

UNCLAS HANOI 000561

SIPDIS

STATE FOR G, CA/OCS/ACS/EAP, EAP/EX, EAP/MLS, EAP/EP, INR,
OES/STC (PBATES), OES/IHA (DSINGER AND NCOMELLA), AND MED
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR ANE AND GH (DCARROLL, SCLEMENTS AND
PCHAPLIN)
STATE PASS TO USTR (ELENA BRYAN)
STATE PASS TO HHS/OGHA (WSTIEGER, EELVANDER AND ABHAT)
USDA PASS TO APHIS
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA/AP (LSTERN)
BANGKOK FOR RMO, CDC, USAID (MFRIEDMAN AND JMACARTHUR)
ROME FOR FAO

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (text)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [AMED](#) [AMGT](#) [CASC](#) [EAGR](#) [PINR](#) [SOCI](#) [VM](#)
SUBJECT: VIETNAM: MARCH 10 AVIAN INFLUENZA REPORT

REF: HANOI 505 AND PREVIOUS

1. Summary. There have been no reported human Avian Influenza (AI) deaths since late October 2005 and no human cases over the past 105 days. The Government of Vietnam (GVN) continues to issue statements that indicate no new AI outbreaks in poultry since December 17, 2005. A local newspaper reported recently that the Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) Steering Committee on AI Prevention will urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to continue its ban on raising poultry within city limits until March 2007. The article also stated that the city's H5N1 vaccination of birds has not been "effective" and 72 of the 96 inoculated flocks brought into HCMC for slaughter since November last year had "failed to produce enough antibodies to fight the disease." These comments appear to support a previous assessment by an Embassy Science Fellow attached to Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MARD) Department of Animal Health that the first nationwide poultry vaccination campaign had significant problems. End Summary.

2. As of March 10, 2006:

-- No human AI deaths since October 29, 2005
-- No new human AI cases since November 9, 2005
-- No AI outbreaks in poultry since the last reported incident on December 17, 2005, in Cao Bang Province

¶3. According to a Thien Nien News report, the HCMC Steering Committee on AI Prevention will ask MARD to continue the ban on raising poultry raising within city limits until March 2007. An expert from the Ho Chi Minh City Department of Animal Health was quoted as saying that only six poultry farms in the city met safety requirements. Post assumes these six farms are not in production given the current ban on raising poultry in urban areas.

¶4. The preceding news report also stated that the H5N1 vaccination of birds has not been "effective" and 72 of the 96 inoculated flocks brought into the city for slaughter since November last year, had "failed to produce enough antibodies to fight the disease." As reported in previous Vietnam AI weekly reports, an Embassy Science Fellow who was assigned to MARD's Department of Animal Health reported that the first nationwide poultry vaccination campaign had significant problems, including failure to produce high enough antibody titers in tested birds. This article appears to corroborate our belief that the first vaccination campaign was perhaps not as effective as previously reported by state-owned media.

¶5. During 2005, Post received a sizeable shipment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) from the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to support anticipated AI outbreaks in Vietnam. With additional OFDA-funded PPE expected in FY06, Post is working with the staff of MARD's Animal Health Department and the Ministry of Health's National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology to finalize the transfer of this equipment to the GVN in support of its poultry vaccination, AI surveillance, and outbreak response team activities.

MARINE